July 31, 2020

Dear St. Rita School Families,

On March 16, St. Rita School quickly and successfully transitioned to an emergency remote learning environment for all our students. Our students and teachers spent 55 days working together from a distance to ensure the successful completion of grade level curriculum. Although challenging for all, our working together and supporting one another, teachers, parents, and students, was so critical to the success of our remote learning during this time of COVID 19. Thank you parents, teachers and students, for your support.

Once school ended our job quickly transitioned into planning for a safe reopening of our beloved St. Rita School for the 2020-2021 school year. In order to achieve this a task force was created, made up of various stakeholders - teachers, staff members, parents, and leadership from the school board, Home School Association, and the school. The task force was commissioned to create a plan to ensure that students and staff would be able to open safely for in-person learning five full days a week while also planning for the possibility of making a fluid transition to a robust remote learning environment. At the same time, the taskforce was also asked to create a remote learning program for students who choose not to return to the brick and mortar building for the upcoming school year.

This document, St. Rita Return to School Plan 2020, was developed to address the safety of all of students and staff, to ensure high quality teaching and learning for all our students, and with attention to the social-emotional well being of our teachers and staff. It should be noted that every detail related to the daily operations of our school in any one of our learning models is not contained within this document. As additional refinements are made or changes become necessary, we will communicate with you.

Our gratitude and thanks go out to all members of the taskforce for their willingness to work together for the good of our entire school community. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our dedicated, hard working, and highly skilled teachers for what we accomplished thus far and for continuing to advance the mission of St. Rita School “to inspire our students in achieving academic excellence in a safe, nurturing, faith-filled Catholic environment while utilizing technology to keep our remote community connected.

May God continue to bless you and your family. Let us pray that St. Rita School will continue to grow and flourish as we proclaim the message of being the “place to be” in Hamden “where the love of Christ is lived and shared.”

Msgr. Joseph V. DiSciacca
Pastor

Patricia O’Neil Tiezzi
Principal